muddy bottoms of rivers; and the neck is as extensile and as capable of being rapidly protruded as in the *Chelydra*. Colonel Sykes informs me that in several specimens of the *Trionychidæ* taken from the Ganges, which he opened, the stomachs were found filled with Uniones, the shells of which had been broken, previously to their being swallowed, into angular fragments which still adhered to the mantle, the bodies of the mollusca being still whole. This would appear to indicate that they seek their prey principally amongst the mud at the bottom of rivers, a situation in which their form enables them so readily and so completely to conceal themselves.

From the carnivorous fresh-water tortoises which have just been mentioned we advance at once and without the intervention of any genus of intermediate habits, to the *Cheloniadæ*, which, as far as we yet know, are generally though not exclusively vegetable feeders. We have seen in the passage from the land to the fresh-water groups, two distinct and well-marked gradations towards the animal aliment of the typical fluviatile form; of which the habits of *Terrapene clausa* constitute the first step, and a further advance is seen in the European species of the same genus. But in the transition from the fluviatile to the marine forms, no connecting link, as far as regards food, has hitherto been discovered. In the structure, at least, of the external covering, the Coriaceous Turtle (*Sphargis mercurialis*), following the *Trionychidæ*, may indicate a passage from the fresh-water to the marine group, and there is a possibility that in this species we may also ascertain those omnivorous habits, which would fill that hiatus in the nature of their food, which, according to our present information, still exists between the families in question;—for I have hitherto failed in finding any account of the food of the Coriaceous Turtle in any author. The other marine turtles feed very principally on marine and maritime plants, especially the Turtle Grass as it is commonly called. On the shores of those oceanic islands in which these animals breed, and where they are found in the greatest numbers, this vegetable constitutes their principal nourishment. It is however also stated upon good authority, that the Logger-head Turtle especially (*Chelonia Caretta*) feeds also on molluscous animals: and in default of their favourite vegetable food, there appears no doubt that all the marine turtles may be sustained with animal nourishment. The stories

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